

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

February 5, 2013

In response to the Status Report on my Board Motion Regarding Postpartum Recovery Homes dated January 14, 2013, it is apparent that the rise in maternity hotels is related to a recent “birthing tourism” trend and money-making business in cities across the United States, and more specifically the San Gabriel Valley.

To date, the Regional Planning Department has received approximately 65 complaints regarding maternity hotels in Rowland Heights and Hacienda Heights. County inspectors have found it difficult to gain access to inspect these maternity hotels for various reasons: occupants don’t answer the door, language barriers, and inspectors are denied access. Although inspectors leave business cards and attempt to make contact with the occupants or property owner, the inspectors rarely receive a return call or communication back from property owners or tenants.

The maternity hotels which are being operated in residentially zoned areas have grown beyond the scope of a zoning issue. The conditions inside some of these houses pose a significant public safety and public health hazard.

Currently, Maternity Hotels are not defined as a specific use in Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code (Planning and Zoning Code) and therefore need to be defined and shut down. In addition, I encourage support of any future state legislation that addresses this growing issue.

(M O R E)

MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Approve the recommendations provided by the Regional Planning Department to continue to investigate public complaints regarding maternity hotels.
2. Direct the Chief Executive Office to take the lead in facilitating the multi-agency inspections with Regional Planning, Public Works, Public Health, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Public Social Services, Fire, Sheriff, Registrar-Recorder's Office, District Attorney, Franchise Tax Board, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Employment Development Department (EDD) and any other County Departments, Federal and or State agencies, as necessary and direct County Counsel, in consultation with Regional Planning, to define the use and draft a proposed ordinance for consideration by the Board of Supervisors and recommendation by the Regional Planning Commission to eliminate the use through zoning regulations to ensure the public's health, safety, and welfare.
3. Direct the Chief Executive Office to identify additional funding to assist the multi-agency inspectors with additional staff and Mandarin/Cantonese translators to communicate with occupants at these Maternity Hotels.
4. Direct the Chief Executive Office to provide the Board with a report back in 60 days.

AV:azr

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